

February 20, 1976

out from the Attorney General's office that we made an unconstitutional statement in the bill. It was designed for a lease purchase agreement and you gave us a real good vote on this last year and we appreciate it very much. The Attorney General's office found that the fact that we had the word purchase in there made it so that it did not comply with the Constitution since we cannot obligate the state for more than \$100,000. I am sorry for the mistake. I guess several of us missed it. It went through two public hearings and no one of us caught it then. I raised the question, then, what was the guideline that was used in the state buying the new state office building and the word that came to me was that it merely specifies leasing the building for X number of years and then they by a gentlemen's agreement which, I guess, is not written anywhere at the end of these prescribed years, the purchase is made then by the City of Lincoln selling it to the State of Nebraska for \$1. I asked if we could proceed on a similar manner as this and the thought was that we could. There are several things that I would like to just repeat on what we said last year. One of them is, when Senator Bereuter was a member of the State Government, he made an extensive study regarding the organization of government and one of the things that was established in his report was that there should be some state office buildings provided throughout the state, and North Platte was designated for one of those places for a building. We had everything, we thought, done properly on it. I have received information that there is some apprehension about the lack of a program and planning procedure. The bill last year provided for \$8,000 to prepare a program and planning document. The Attorney General, again, informed us and I don't think we have a letter on this but it was verbal that we could not spend the \$8,000 until the bill had been authorized. I assume that should we proceed with this we could indicate that the money was there and that the planning would be made on the approval of the Legislature and the Governor and hold up the remodeling and the actual transfer until that document was presented. The planning and program was offered in public testimony. It was supplied by members of the North Platte Hospital Corporation. If this is a problem with any of my fellow legislators, we shall be glad to provide this simple statement that it is the hope to make an office building out of this facility. We, naturally, are wanting to do everything that is right and legal and comply with this transaction. One other thing, Mr. President, the people in the Department of Administrative Services assume that the \$8,000 that was appropriated last year is still intact and that the \$50,000 that was designated to be paid to the North Platte Hospital Corporation is still intact because it was due actually July 1 had the flaw in the bill not been discovered. We would urge the adoption of this report and advance the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature,